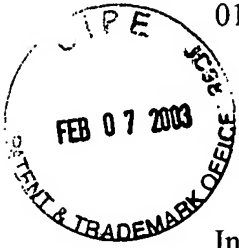


01272.020511

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: J. Huffman
KOICHIRO KAWAGUCHI, ET AL.	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2853
Appln. No.: 10/082,181	)	
	:	
Filed: February 26, 2002	)	
	:	
For: PRINTING APPARATUS AND	)	
PRINTING METHOD	:	February 7, 2003

*1/4 Election*  
*J. Stepha*  
*3-4-03*  
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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed January 17, 2003.

A careful review of the specification reveals that the various species are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

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Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect Species 3, represented by Fig. 4. It is respectfully submitted that at least Claims 1-3, 9-11, 13-16 and 22-24 read on the elected species. The Examiner indicated that Claims 1-3 and 14-16 are generic.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Attorney for Applicants

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